

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST BY-LINER BY
MARLISE SIMONS, FRIDAY, MAY 5, HEADED "U.S.-MEXICO
TALKS FAIL TO RESOLVE KEY ISSUES."

2. MEXICO CITY--U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE
DISCUSSED BILATERAL ISSUES WITH TOP MEXICAN OFFICIALS
YESTERDAY, BUT NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE TWO KEY
AREAS: ILLEGAL MEXICAN MIGRATION TO THE U.S. AND
AMERICAN PURCHASE OF MEXICAN NATURAL GAS.

3. THE VISIT, VANCE SAID ON ARRIVAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT,
WAS PART OF THE "CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM" ESTABLISHED
BY THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ONE YEAR AGO TO
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PROVIDE A PERMANENT FORUM FOR REVIEWING BILATERAL
AFFAIRS.

4. CLEARLY NOT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT RE-
SULTS, THE INTENT OF THE VISIT IS REGARDED AS KEEPING
RELATIONS WITH MEXICO COMFORTABLE, AN ACT OF "GOOD
NEIGHBORLINESS" AS ONE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID.

5. AFTER A ONE HOUR MEETING WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO LAST NIGHT IN WHICH A VARIETY OF TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED, VANCE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD BRIEFED LOPEZ PORTILLO ON HIS RECENT TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL VISIT MOSCOW IN TWO WEEKS.

6. JUST AS THE PERMANENT FLOW OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN MIGRANTS IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO U.S. POLICY MAKERS, MEXICO'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN A "REASONABLE" PRICE FOR ITS NATURAL GAS IN THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME A PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE HERE. THE U.S. REFUSAL SO FAR TO MEET THE MEXICAN PRICE, PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, HAS PROVOKED BITTER STATEMENTS FROM OFFICIALS HERE AND A WAVE OF CRITICISM IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

7. LAST WEEK PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID ONCE AGAIN THAT MEXICO NO LONGER INTENDS TO EXPORT ITS HUGE GAS RESERVES AND IS PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION OF ITS NATIONWIDE GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK TO FULFILL ITS OWN NEEDS.

8. YET OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN EAGER TO AVOID A BUILDUP OF THE TENSIONS THAT EXISTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS.
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9. FOREIGN MINISTER SANTIAGO ROEL HAS TRAVELED II TIMES TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE LAST YEAR AND IT WAS EVIDENTLY TIME FOR A VISIT BY VANCE, WHO HAD POSTPONED HIS TRIP HERE SEVERAL TIMES.

10. VANCE APPEARED TO WANT TO MAKE UP FOR HIS CANCELLATIONS BY REPEATEDLY REFERRING TO HIS MEXICAN COUNTERPART AS "MY GOOD AND DEAR FRIEND" AND "DISTINGUISHED LEADER."

11. PERSONAL TIES BETWEEN THE CARTER AND LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE BEEN BLOSSOMING, AND TOP MEXICAN OFFICIALS WERE EVIDENTLY BASKING IN THE ATTENTION THEY HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM WASHINGTON. LAST JANUARY, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE CAME TO MEXICO ON A COURTESY VISIT WHILE ROSALYNN CARTER AND CARMEN LOPEZ PORTILLO HAVE MET SEVERAL TIMES.

12. ALL THE SAME, IN MATTERS OF TRADE MEXICO FEELS STRONGLY THAT ITS NEIGHBOR SHOULD LOWER ITS PROTECTIONIST BARRIERS AGAINST MEXICAN EXPORT PRODUCTS SUCH

AS WINTER VEGETABLES, STEEL, SHOES AND TEXTILES. WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS THE PRINCIPAL BUYER OF OIL FROM MEXICO'S NEW WELLS, MEXICO BELIEVES THAT ITS MAIN TRADING PARTNER SHOULD BUY THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS TO SELL TO PREVENT AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE ALREADY SERIOUS POVERTY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

13. VANCE AND ROEL TODAY SIGNED TREATIES ON MARITIME LIMITS AND BROADENED THE EXISTING EXTRADITION TREATY.

14. OFFICIALS OF BOTH SIDES PROUDLY POINTED TO ANOTHER RECENT TREATY THAT TOOK THE STING OUT OF THE GROWING UNCLASSIFIED

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IRRITATION OVER SOME 600 AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO. THIS TREATY, WHICH PERMITS NATIVES OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO SERVE THEIR PRISON SENTENCES AT HOME, WENT INTO EFFECT LAST DECEMBER. SINCE THEN 290 AMERICAN PRISONERS HAVE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE MAJORITY HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

15. ANOTHER 17 AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN MAY 15. THERE ARE STILL 294 AMERICANS IN MEXICAN JAILS AT PRESENT, WHILE FREQUENT ARRESTS, MOST OF THEM ON CHARGES OF MARIJUANA SMUGGLING, CONTINUE.

16. VANCE LEFT MEXICO CITY LAST NIGHT FOR A DAY'S REST IN PUERTO VALLARTA ON THE PACIFIC COAST AND WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW. CHRISTOPHER

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